

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3397

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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 3531

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, UN, KS

SUBJECT: KOREAN AMBASSADOR TO CHILE TO BECOME UN OBSERVER

1. AFTER A TOUR OF ONLY A LITTLE OVER A YEAR, BYUNG KI HAN, KOREAN AMBASSADOR IN CHILE, HAS BEEN DESIGNATED KOREAN OBSERVER TO THE UN. HE PAID FAREWELL CALL ON ME MAY 28. EXPECTS TO ARRIVE IN NEW YORK JUNE 16.
 2. AMBASSADOR HAN IS OBVIOUSLY VERY WELL CONNECTED IN KOREA, APPARENTLY THROUGH HIS WIFE. DURING HIS STAY HERE, HE HAS CONDUCTED QUIET BUT QUITE EFFICIENT EFFORT TO INFLUENCE CHILEANS FAVORABLY RE KOREA -- A RELATIVELY EASY TASK IN THE LIGHT OF THE ROK'S ANTI-COMMUNIST ATTITUDE. THERE HAS BEEN SOME INTEREST IN INTRODUCING KOREAN FISHING VESSELS IN THE SEAS OFF CHILE, BUT THIS HAS NOT MATERIALIZED TO DATE.
 3. AMBASSADOR HAN, WHO HAS PREVIOUSLY SERVED IN NEW YORK, IS UNDER NO ILLUSIONS AS TO DIFFICULTIES WHICH WILL BE CONFRONTING HIM DURING CONSIDERATION OF KOREAN QUESTION AT THIS YEAR'S UNGA. RECALLING LAST YEAR'S SUCCESS, WITH CLIFF-HANGER FINISH FOR PRO-NORTH KOREAN PROPOSAL, HE EXPRESSED VIEW SITUATION WOULD BE LESS SATISFACTORY IN 1975. WITHOUT INDICATING WHETHER HIS VIEW WAS PERSONAL OR OFFICIAL, HE TOOK LINE ROK SHOULD WORRY LESS ABOUT ABOLITION OF UN COMMAND
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THROUGH UNGA RESOLUTION AND MORE ABOUT CONVINCING ITS OWN

PUBLIC THAT IT HAD ALL ALONG BEEN USG AND NOT UN WHICH HAD BEEN PATRON AND PROTECTOR OF ROK. HAN SAID HE HAD BEEN GREATLY REASSURED BY TOP-LEVEL USG STATEMENTS REITERATING US COMMITMENTS.

4. ACCORDING TO HAN, ROK SITUATION DIFFERED SHARPLY FROM THAT IN VIETNAM, WHERE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN WEAK AND PEOPLE HAD NEVER BEEN COMMITTED TO AN ANTI-COMMUNIST STRUGGLE. BY CONTRAST, KOREAN GOVERNMENT WAS STRONG, AND KOREAN PEOPLE HAD RALLIED OVERWHELMINGLY IN SUPPORT OF POSTPONEMENT OF POLITICS AND ATTAINMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY IN FACE OF CURRENT NORTH KOREAN THREAT.

5. AMBASSADOR HAN SAID HE INTENDS TO CULTIVATE ROK EXILE COMMUNITY IN US, AS WELL AS US PRESS AND OPINION ORGANS. HE BELIEVES THERE IS A JOB TO DO IN IMPARTING TO THEM A MORE BALANCED VIEW OF THE SITUATION IN SOUTH KOREA, AND WILL TRY TO DO IT.

6. IN OUR LIMITED CONTACTS, AMBASSADOR HAN HAS BEEN FRIENDLY AND COOPERATIVE WITH US IN SANTIAGO. HE IS A QUIET INDIVIDUAL OF CONSIDERABLE INTELLIGENCE AND WAS EFFECTIVE AS A SPOKESMAN WITH THE GOC.
POPPER

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